

## PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT

MDOT strives to continually involve the public and stakeholders in the development of its programs and projects. The Five-Year Transportation Program process is an important opportunity to implement the vision that citizens and businesses have for Michigan. Transportation projects are often many years in the making, so it is important to engage stakeholders early so that public participation can help shape mutually desired outcomes. The Five-Year Transportation Program creates a continuous, interactive dialogue with the users of the state transportation system to anchor MDOT's project development and delivery systems. MDOT's seven region offices, 23 Transportation Service



Centers (TSC) and statewide planning staff work throughout the year to share project lists with local agencies, stakeholders and the public. Information is presented at rural elected officials meetings, TSC transportation summits, Rural Task Force meetings, and meetings with legislators. In addition to formal presentations, MDOT staff members informally discuss individual projects within the plan with economic development and tourism agencies, rural planning agencies, metropolitan planning organizations, road commissions, local officials, tribal governments, businesses, local non-profit groups and the general public.

Public participation in MDOT's Five-Year Transportation Program feeds into the biennial State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP). The Five-Year Transportation Program serves as an opportunity for the public to be notified and provide local input to the upcoming STIP. The road and bridge projects proposed in years one through four of the Five-Year Program will be incorporated into MDOT's 2014-2017 STIP. Michigan is required to complete this planning process to receive federal transportation funding.

MDOT will work with urban Metropolitan Planning Organizations (MPOs), rural transportation agencies and the public over the next several months to arrive at a list of projects to guide MDOT's 2014-2017 investment decisions.

The public review and comment period for the Preliminary Draft of the MDOT 2013-17 Five-Year Transportation Program was Dec. 10, 2012, through Jan. 9, 2013. On Dec. 10, MDOT placed the document on the MDOT Web site, issued a news release and e-mail notification to invite comments. The e-mail notice went to state transportation advocacy groups, regional planning agencies, Rural Task Force members and other interested groups. Also available on the MDOT Web site was an interactive state map feature, which encouraged users to view the Five-Year Transportation Program project list geographically and quickly locate projects by year. The interactive state map Web site received 1,007 visits.

MDOT received a total of 37 comments on the draft program. Statewide, 11 of the comments received were related to areas where road conditions, traffic safety or congestion is a concern. Five comments requested the status of projects, including three urging MDOT to complete the US-31/I-94 interchange in Berrien County. Five comments advocated for additional nonmotorized transportation, walkable communities and Complete Streets.

Four comments advocated for improved passenger rail service or public transit service. Three comments expressed displeasure with MDOT construction zones. Two comments urged the department to stop sprawl and dependency on roads by expanding public transportation options. Two comments related to local roads. One comment supported the I-75 project but did not approve of the high-occupancy vehicle (HOV) lane. The remaining comments included two comments relating to signing issues, a request for noise mitigation, and a comment on the document itself.

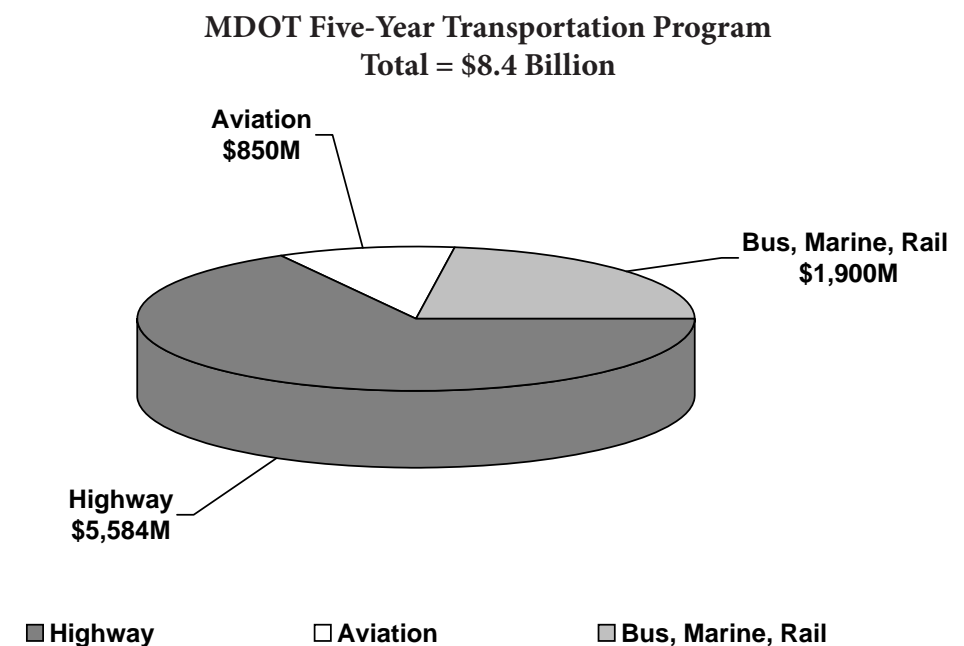
Information and comments received were directed to appropriate MDOT project areas or MDOT region planners. Response letters to individuals were generated to address the area of concern or recognize a comment. Local road comments were forwarded to the appropriate local offices.

MDOT appreciates receiving this feedback and looks forward to providing more avenues for public involvement through enhancements to the MDOT Web site and social media outlets.

## FIVE-YEAR PLAN OVERVIEW



This Five-Year Transportation Program invests nearly \$8.4 billion in MDOT's transportation system. This includes investments in the Highway, Aviation, Bus, Rail and Marine programs. Over the five years, \$850 million will be invested in the Aviation Program and \$1.9 billion will be invested in Bus, Rail and Marine/Port programs. A total of \$5.6 billion (including routine maintenance) will be invested in the 2013-2017 Highway Program. See the following pie chart:



### MDOT's Five-Year Transportation Program (Total = \$8.4 Billion)

Enhancing economic development by preserving and maintaining a safe transportation system remains MDOT's highest priority. This Five-Year Transportation Highway Program will invest approximately \$4.2 billion on system preservation through the repair and maintenance of Michigan's roads and bridges. The majority of the Multi-

Modal Program will focus on system preservation. Investments in Michigan's transportation system will focus on a comprehensive safety program and increased emphasis on mobility and expanded work zone safety efforts. The Five-Year Transportation Program documents that MDOT's investments in the state transportation system directly benefits Michigan citizens by providing them with expanded options, mobility and access.